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Position Description Administrative Specialist, GS-301-13

INTRODUCTION

This position is located in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ), Laboratory Operations Division (LOD), Testing Services Group (TSG), at the National Vehicle Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL).

OTAQ has national responsibility for analyzing, controlling, and reducing emissions from all mobile sources of air pollution. Mobile sources include cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, farm and construction equipment, lawn and garden equipment, marine engines, aircraft, and locomotives. The mission of OTAQ is to develop national regulatory programs aimed at reducing mobile source-related air pollution; evaluating emission control technology; testing vehicles, engines and fuels; and determining compliance with federal emissions and fuel economy standards. Subordinate divisions are individually responsible for providing these services through a variety of testing, monitoring, research, and certification of vehicles, engines, and fuels, and by developing rules, regulations, and standards for the various emission reductions, control, and enforcement acts.

LOD provides emission testing services for motor vehicle, heavy-duty engine, and nonroad engine programs in support of rulemakings, enforcement actions, and test procedures development. Testing activities include certification, fuel economy in-use compliance, fuels and fuel additives analysis, and exhaust compounds analysis. In addition, LOD manages NVFEL's data systems and instrumentation, computer and telecommunications systems, and its Quality Assurance program.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To accomplish its mission, LOD relies on the expertise of this position for providing centralized services to support Laboratory operations. This includes managing the following administrative services and functions for the Division to include TSG:

Contracts and Grants Management

- Serve as project officer or work assignment manager on grants, contracts, and Interagency Agreements;
- Manage the development of contract and grant packages, bringing in experts from CPOD as needed;
- Develop Annual Acquisition Plan for submittal to the Office of Acquisition Management

Contract/Grants/IAG Project Officer Training and Certification

- Manage Division's project officer training and certification, identifying any training deficiencies or gaps;
- Develop a reviewable process to ensure contracts/project officers are carrying out their duties as described by standard

Budget Development, Execution, and Management

- Develop straw proposals for annual budget request. Once Division budget is allocated, develop structure and substructure for the entire Division, coordinating as necessary with managers;
- Manage budget by generating reports, tracking spending, reconciling unanticipated expenses against projections, and ensuring that all funds are appropriately spent, in the right category, in the right timeframe;
- Identify shortfalls with planned spending, propose solution, secure approval from managers, and make adjustments as necessary

Management Representation

• Act in a confidential capacity for, and participate in discussions with, management involving personnel, award amounts, PARs, grievance procedures, employee discipline, employee evaluation and investigation reporting, labor-management relations, etc. Specifically, this could include creating and maintaining confidential employee files, compiling data for accretion of duties, preparing disciplinary and adverse action letters, typing evaluation and investigative reports, and representing individuals who formulate or effectuate policy in areas of labor-management relations. Employee exercises independent judgment and discretion in carrying out these duties.

Human Resources Administration

 Perform non-clerical personnel work in areas of recruitment, promotions, awards, probationary periods, career development plans, etc. This could include such activities as screening resumes, analyzing awards and promotions, tracking assignments/work products for evaluation throughout probationary periods, identifying training and development activities aligned with employees' Individual Development Plan, and so on.

Time and Attendance

- Develop and implement processes related to leave management, tour of duty and hours of work, flexi-place, travel comp time, etc.;
- Serve as timekeeper for the Division

General Operation of the Testing Services Group

- Manage general administrative functions such as travel, scheduling, tours, guests and visitors, recordkeeping, training, and other operations;
- Coordinate administrative functions of subordinate units and provide tracking and administration across the whole organization

Purchase Card Operations

- Develop processes and practices to ensure consistent and appropriate use of federal purchase cards;
- Conduct regular reviews of purchase card use, investigate any questionable purchases, resolve discrepancies, and put new processes in place to prevent future discrepancies or errors;
- Manage LOD's purchase card holder and approver training and certification, identify any gaps, and work with management to ensure that all holders are fully trained and certified

Records Management

- Serve as records liaison officer for LOD to meet the goals and objectives of the National Records Management Program (NRMP);
- Conduct periodic audits of records management functions, ensuring that EPA and other federal policies are followed

Administrative Management

- Develop and implement processes for a number of administrative functions such as mandatory training, travel comp time, timekeeping, and other similar functions;
- Identify opportunities for improvement in the administrative management of LOD, develop plans for implementing those improvements, and carry them out accordingly

Factor 1: Knowledge Required By The Position – Level 1-8 (1550 points)

- Expert knowledge of, and skill in applying qualitative, quantitative, analytical, and evaluative techniques to the identification, consideration, and resolution of issues facing the operation and management of administrative services and programs across the Laboratory Operations Division. This knowledge/skill is used to effectively operate and manage key functional areas to include: Contracts, Grants, and IAGs; Budgets; Time and Attendance; Human Resources Administration; Purchase Card Operations; Records Management; and Administrative Management. This knowledge/skill is also used to develop and carry out assessments to evaluate current programs and work processes and to recommend improvements if necessary.
- Expert knowledge of laws, regulations, policies, and precedents pertaining to people, operations, budgets, and/or equipment. This knowledge/skill is used to develop and implement protocols, processes, and procedures to maximize efficient utilization of staff, budget, equipment, and other resources.
- Expert written and verbal communication skills. This knowledge/skill is used to provide reports, analysis, briefings, and presentations to colleagues and managers across OTAQ.
- Ability to identify, evaluate, and resolve gaps in processes, procedures, or policies.
- Ability to conduct audits of specific areas, identify necessary improvements or corrections, and implement solutions.
- Ability to provide management with flexible alternatives to problem resolution.

Factor 2: Supervisory Controls – Level 2-4 (450 points)

The supervisor outlines the general priorities, funding and overall project objectives (e.g., cost reduction, improved effectiveness and efficiency, better workload distribution, or implementation of new work methods), and then the employee and supervisor develop a mutually acceptable project plan for carrying out the work. Some assignments may come directly from other managers or the Associate Director of the Laboratory Operations Division.

From these assignments, the employee is responsible for planning and organizing the work, determining methodology to be used and resources necessary, coordinating with staff and management as needed, and conducting all phases of the given project. This frequently involves the interpretation of regulations and policies as well as the initial application of new methods. The employee informs the supervisor of potentially controversial findings, issues, or problems with widespread impact.

Completed projects, evaluations, reports, or recommendations are reviewed by the supervisor for compatibility with organizational goals, guidelines, and effectiveness in achieving intended objectives. Most projects have an impact on LOD's workforce or management cadre, and are thus sometimes reviewed by another TSG manager in order to ensure that implementation is smooth and no unforeseen complications are likely.

Factor 3: Guidelines – Level 3-4 (450 points)

Guidelines consist of general administrative policies and management and organizational theories which require considerable adaptation and/or interpretation for application to issues and problems studied. While administrative policies and precedent studies provide a basic outline of the results desired, the employee must develop the appropriate method or approach for the task at hand. Examples could include the following: EPA Order 1900.1A (Interacting with Contractors); Office of Federal Procurement Policy Pamphlet #4 (Guide to Writing and Administering SOWs); Federal Acquisition Regulations; Contracts Management Manual; EPA Manual 3180 (Flexiplace); EPA Manual 3130-A2 (Recognition Policy and Procedures Manual); EPA Manual 3155 (Pay Administration Manual); Timekeepers Guide to PeoplePlus; Leave Manual; Federal Travel Regulations; Gov Trip Document Processing Manual; EPA Manual – Administrative Control of Appropriated Funds 2.0; Summit Training Web 3.0 – eManager User Guide; EPA-OTAQ Purchase Card SOP; EPA Guidance on Grants & IAAs; and SEE Handbook.

Administrative guidelines usually cover program goals and objectives of LOD (i.e., via yearly budget decisions, environmental goals, external constraints), but the employee is expected to refine or develop more specific guidelines if the project requires an innovative or unique approach.

Factor 4: Complexity – Level 4-5 (325 points)

The work consists of projects that require analysis of interrelated issues of effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity of substantive programs related to the overall administrative management of LOD. Decisions about how to proceed in planning, organizing, and conducting the work are often complicated by conflicting goals and objectives across the Office, and are further complicated by external directions and mandates governing the overall administrative work of the federal government or EPA. As such, the employee is required to evaluate and organize the information from a wide variety of sources.

Options, recommendations, and conclusions developed by the employee take into account and give appropriate weight to uncertainties about the data and other variables that affect long-range program performance. These uncertainties often take the form of guidelines or examples that are, by their very nature, quite general, and do not "fit" the situation or challenge facing LOD. Current measurements of program effectiveness may be ambiguous and susceptible to widely varying interpretations. Under these circumstances the employee develops new information about the subject studied and establishes criteria to identify and measure program accomplishments, develops methods to improve the effectiveness with which programs are administered, or develops new approaches to program evaluation which serve as precedents for others.

Factor 5: Scope and Effect – Level 5-4 (225 points)

The purpose of the work is to assess the productivity, effectiveness, and efficiency of administrative operations and to analyze and resolve problems in the effectiveness and efficiency of administrative and staff activities in LOD. Work involves establishing criteria to measure and/or predict the attainment of program goals and objectives through the provision of centralized administrative management services. Work at this level may also include developing new administrative regulations or procedures to improve the overall management practices in LOD, such as those governing the allocation and distribution of supplies, equipment, and other resources, or promulgating program guidance for application across organizational lines or in varied geographic locations.

Work contributes to the improvement of operations and management of LOD at different echelons and geographical locations within the organization. Work affects the plans, goals, and effectiveness of missions and programs at these various echelons or locations. Work may affect the nature of administrative work done in components of other agencies (e.g., in preparation and submission of reports, in gathering and evaluating workload statistics, or in routing and storing official correspondence or files).

AA-10-044

Factors 6 and 7: Personal Contacts and Purpose of Contacts – Level 3C (180 points)

Contacts include persons both in and outside the EPA which may include managers, employees, consultants, contractors, or business executives in a moderately unstructured setting. This level may also include ad-hoc contacts with the head of the employing agency or senior-level program officials.

The overall purpose of these contacts are to influence internal and external officials to accept and implement findings and recommendations on organizational improvement or program effectiveness. May encounter resistance due to such issues as organizational conflict, competing objectives, or resource problems.

Factor 8: Physical Demands – Level 8-1 (5 points)

The work is primarily sedentary, although some slight physical effort may be required.

Factor 9: Work Environment – Level 9-1 (5 points)

Work is typically performed in an adequately lighted and climate controlled office. May require occasional travel.

Total Points = 3190

Grade Conversion: = GS-13

Title and Series = Administrative Specialist, GS-0301

AA-10-044

Extramural Resources Management Duties Checklist

This checklist may be used to identify duties in managing contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements. It is a tool for identifying duties to be added to position descriptions for positions equiring 25% or more of time on any combination of extramural resources management duties. The checklist may be used as an amendment to position descriptions for positions requiring less than 25% of time on these duties.

Employee Information Name Michelle B. Houston Position Number Title Administrative Specialist Series/Grade GS / 0301 / 13 Organization OAR/OTAQ/LOD/TSG/64046002	Percentage of Time Spent on Extramural Resources Management This position has no extramural resources management responsibilities. Total extramural resources management duties occupy less than 25% of time. Total extramural resources management duties occupy 25% to 50% of time. These duties are indicated below and described in the position description. Total extramural resources management duties occupy more than 50% of time. These duties are indicated below and described in the position
When this checklist is used as an amendment to a position de Supervisor=s Signature	description. escription, the following signatures are required: Date Date
Pre-award: X Plans procurements Estimates costs Obtains funding commitments X Prepares procurement requests Writes statements of work Reviews statements of work Processes unsolicited proposals Responds to pre-award inquiries Participates in pre-award conferences Conducts technical evaluation of proposals Participates in debriefing/protests Other (list)	Monitors management and performance of delivery orders/work assignments after award Defines scope of work for work assignments X Approves payment requests or ACH drawdowns Manages cost-reimbursement contracts X Reviews invoices Inspects and accepts deliverables Other (list) Close-out: Writes reports on contractor performance, costs, and tasks performed Reconciles payments with work performance X Closes out payments X Performs cost accounting
Post-award: Prepares delivery orders Reviews contractor work plans Reviews contractor progress reports Monitors government-furnished property Monitors cost, management, and overall technical performance of contract after award	

	Part 2.	Grants/Cooperative Agreements Duties	Advise	es Grants Ma	anagement Off	ice of pote	ential
	Dro on	olication/Application:		ms/issues			
	- rie-api	olication/Application: Prepares solicitation for proposals			ision/actions to		ana ta
	1	Identifies potential grantees for areas of program		e sanctions	completion an	u in decisi	ONS IO
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		Makes initial determinations (whether project is	Review	ves payment	for modification	ne addition	nal
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		legal authority, whether applicant is eligible,	Grants	Manageme	ent Office	cildations	lo
•		whether funding is available, etc.)		ates amend			
		Provides administrative information to applicants	Review	vs Cost/Price	e/Analysis for r	ecinient	
		Determines appropriateness of applicant=s			orders (Superfu		
		workplan/activities/budget and compliance with			recommends te		of the
		regulations and guidelines and negotiates	agreer		i o o o i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	311111111111111111111111111111111111111	01 1110
		changes with applicant			nts Manageme	nt Office	
		Assists applicant in resolving issues in application			financial issue		
		For cooperative agreement, determines			reviews to ens		iance
		substantial Federal involvement and develops a		reement			
		condition for agreement	Other				
		Negotiates level of funding		•			
		Conducts site visits to evaluate program capability	Close-out:				
		Serves as resource to Selection Panel	Certifie	es deliverabl	es were satisfa	actory and	timely
		Informs applicants of funding decisions	Provid	es assistand	e to recipients	and Grant	ts
		Other (list)	Manag	ement Offic	e to ensure tim	nely closed	out
			Recon	ciles payme	nt with work pe	erformed	
	Award:		Notifie	s recipient o	f close-out req	uirements	
		Prepares funding package, including Decision			stance if neces	sary to res	solve
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		Obtains concurrences/approvals			l, responds to i		ł
		Reviews/concurs in completed document			complies with a	udit	
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FES Evaluation Statement

The following evaluation is based on the assumption that the duties and factor levels as stated in the PD are true and accurate as signed and certified by the immediate supervisor, Fidel Galano, Manager, Data and Quality Management Group, and second-level supervisor, Michael Sabourin, Director, Laboratory Operations Division.

TITLE:	SERIES:	GRADE:
Administrative Specialist	0301	13
ORGANIZATION: OAR/OTAQ/LOD/Data and Quality !	Management Group	PD #:
CLASSIFIER:	<u> </u>	DATE: 4/15/09

REFERENCES: Administrative Analysis Grade Evaluation Guide, TS-98, August 1990; Professional and Administrative Work in the Accounting and Budget Group, GS-500, December 2000.

SERIES: The GS-0301 covers all classes of positions the duties of which are to perform, supervise, or manage two-grade interval administrative or program work for which no other series is appropriate. The work requires analytical ability, judgment, discretion, and knowledge of a substantial body of administrative or program principles, concepts, policies, and objectives.

EVALUATION FACTORS	FLI	OS/POINTS	COMMENTS
1. Knowledge Required	1-8	1550 Pts	Expert knowledge of and skill in applying qualitative,
	ļ		quantitative, analytical, and evaluative techniques to
			the identification, consideration, and resolution of
		•	issues facing the operation and management of
	l		administrative services and programs to the Division.
	j		This knowledge and skill is used to effectively operate
			and manage key functional areas such as contracts,
			grants, IAGs, budgets, time and attendance, HR
	i		administration, Purchase Card operations, records
	[management, and administrative management; and to
			develop and carry out assessments to evaluate current
	İ		programs or work processes and to recommend
			improvements, when necessary. In-depth knowledge
			of laws, regulations, policies, and precedents
			pertaining to personnel, operations, budgets, and/or
			equipment to prepare protocols, processes, and
			procedures to maximize efficient utilization of staff,
			budget, equipment, and other resources. Ability to
			identify, evaluate, and resolve gaps in processes,
			procedures, or policies; and to conduct audits of
			specific areas, identify necessary improvements or
			corrections, and implement solutions. Written and verbal communication skills are required to provide
			reports, analysis, briefings, and presentations.
2. Supervisory Controls	2-4	450 Pts	Supervisor sets the overall objectives and resources
		130113	available Incumbent plans develops goodinates
			and evaluates programs projects activities and
		İ	Carries Out assignments: resolves conflicts which arises
			coordinates the work with others; and interprets policy
	•	l	On Own initiative in terms of established chiectives
			Completed work is reviewed for compatibility with
			organizational goals, guidelines, and effectiveness in
		İ	achieving intended objectives.
3. Guidelines	3-4	450 Pts	Guidelines consist of general administrative policies
			and management and organizational theories which
3. Guidelines	3-4	450 Pts	available. Incumbent plans, develops, coordinates, and evaluates programs, projects, activities, and carries out assignments; resolves conflicts which are coordinates the work with others; and interprets pol on own initiative in terms of established objectives. Completed work is reviewed for compatibility with organizational goals, guidelines, and effectiveness is achieving intended objectives. Guidelines consist of general administrative policies and management and organizational theories which

			require considerable adaptation and/or interpretation for application to issues and problems studied. While administrative policies and precedent studies provide a basic outline of the results desired, incumbent must develop the appropriate method or approach for the task assigned. Guides are EPA Order 1900.1A (Interacting with Contractors); Office of Federal Procurement Policy Pamphlet #4 (Guide to Writing and Administering SOWs); Federal Acquisition Regulations; Contracts Management Manual; EPA Manual 3180 (Flexiplace); EPA Manual 3130-A2 (Recognition Policy and Procedures Manual); EPA Manual 3155 (Pay Administration Manual); Timekeepers Guide to PeoplePlus; Leave Manual; Federal Travel Regulations; GovTrip Document Processing Manual; EPA Manual – Administrative Control of Appropriated Funds 2.0;Summit Training Web 3.0-eManager User Guide; EPA/OTAQ Purchase Card SOP; EPA Guidance on Grants & IAAs; and SEE Handbook. Administrative guidelines normally cover program goals and objectives, however incumbent is expected to refine or develop more
			specific guidelines if the project requires an
		·	innovative or unique approach.
4. Complexity	4-5	325 Pts	The PD states that the work consists of projects that require analysis of interrelated issues of effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity of substantive programs
			related to the administrative management of the division. Decisions about how to proceed in planning, organizing and conducting the work are often complicated by conflicting goals and objectives and are further complicated by external directions and
			mandates governing the overall administrative work of the Federal government or EPA. Incumbent is required to evaluate and organize the information from a wide variety of sources. Conclusions may be highly subjective and not readily susceptible to
			verification through replication of study methods or reevaluation of results. This is because the work is performed in a specific organization in a specific environment, and the conclusions are based on what will work for the Division (not what might be
5. Scope & Effect	5-4	225 Pts	acceptable or useable elsewhere). According to the PD, the purpose of the work is to
·			assess the productivity, effectiveness, and efficiency of administrative operations and to analyze and resolve problems in the effectiveness and efficiency of division administrative and staff activities. Work involves establishing criteria to measure and/or predict the attainment of program goals and objectives through the provision of centralized administrative management services. Work may also include developing new administrative regulations or procedures to improve the overall management practices in LOD, such as those governing the

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Total Points:
9. Work Environment
8. Physical Demands
7. Purpose of Contacts
6. Personal Contacts

Special Remarks:

